



Annual Report 2006



Members

Mike Black, Chair

Jasper, TN

Represents conservation organizations

Bill Williams, Vice-Chair

Newport, TN

Represents hardwood manufacturers

John Ross, Secretary

Savannah, TN

Represents owners of greater than 500 acres

Jack Holder

Counce, TN

Represents pulp and paper manufacturers

Paul Trianosky

Mountain City, TN

Represents owners of less than 500 acres

James W. Reeves

Stanton, TN

Represents Public at Large

Ronnie James

Hohenwald, TN

Represents owners of less than 500 acres

Ken Givens, Ex-Officio

Commissioner -Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Gary T. Myers, Ex-Officio

Director - Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Jim Fyke, Ex-Officio

Commissioner - Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Forestry Commission Duties and Functions

The Tennessee Forestry Commission was established by the legislature under TCA 11-4-201 to:

1. Nominate candidates for state forester
2. Review, approve and submit the annual budget of the Forestry Division to the Commissioner of Agriculture
3. Make an annual report to the Governor, Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and the Senate Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee and the House Conservation and Environment Committee
4. Recommend to the General Assembly legislation to protect, conserve and develop the forest resources of the state
5. Approve the Division's comprehensive long-range plan for the state's forest resources
6. Establish state forestry policies that will enable the Division to manage its programs
7. Include in budget recommendations those goals and objectives necessary to implement state forestry policies

Highlights for 2006

Cooperation Leads to Successful Programs and Projects for the Division of Forestry

The Division of Forestry works cooperatively with many state, federal, and local agencies, along with several non-profit organizations to accomplish its mission. The cooperative effort between the division and its partner agencies and organizations makes a difference in the everyday lives of Tennesseans. The division is well prepared to provide the necessary leadership and technical assistance on a wide range of multi-agency/organization projects that are closely related to its mission of protecting, conserving, managing, and utilizing the forest resources of Tennessee.

The division administers and manages the national Forest Legacy Program whereby federal funds are made available to the state to acquire environmentally important private forestlands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. During 2006 the division cooperated with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and The Nature Conservancy in acquiring 4 separate forestland tracts totaling 17,000 acres valued at \$11 million.

The division cooperated with the University of Tennessee Extension and the Tennessee Forestry Association in providing a series of forest landowner education workshops to promote the management of healthy hardwood forests. Each year, through the cooperative efforts of these partners, private forest landowners in Tennessee receive education, training, and professional technical assistance on sound forestry practices.

The division regularly seeks out successful silvicultural programs demonstrating sound forestry practices, and more specifically those involving successful application of uneven-aged silvicultural practices. During 2006 the division completed its report summarizing hardwood silvicultural practices used on the Pioneer Forest in Missouri. The division presented forestry seminars on the report in cooperation with forestry and conservation community leaders from across the state.

The Department of Agriculture and the division recognized the historic and cultural values represented in selected sites within the Pinson Reforestation Complex and worked cooperatively with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to transfer jurisdiction of those properties to the state park system. At the same time, TDEC worked cooperatively with the Department of Agriculture and the division to pursue acquisition of additional replacement acreage for the continuation of the division's tree improvement program.

The division, working cooperatively with the Southern Environmental Law Center, presented rationale to the NRCS TN State Technical Committee to form a forestry sub-committee. During 2006 the sub-committee investigated possible EQIP state concerns or other forestry initiatives that would further both forest management and rare wildlife management. Conservation agencies and partners each have a representative on the sub-committee and work cooperatively to benefit forests and forest management.

FOREST RESOURCE PROTECTION UNIT

The mission of the Forest Resource Protection Unit is to reduce losses from wildfires and forest pests, and to prevent water quality degradation from forestry sources. The Forest Resource Protection Unit administers the Division's Fire Protection, Forest Health, and Water Quality programs.

FOREST RESOURCE PROTECTION - WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION

Mission: Minimize damage caused by wildfire to forest resources and personal property while giving priority to firefighter safety.

The Division protects forest resources from destructive fire so the intrinsic benefits of the state's forests can be utilized. It does this by preventing and suppressing wildfires, promoting hazard reduction activities, and supporting wildland fire training for volunteer fire departments and other wildland firefighters. The highest priority of this program is firefighter and public safety.

Major accomplishments for 2006

- Suppressed 2,198 forest fires that burned 30,801 acres
- Issued 450,668 burn permits
- Deployed 51 new pumper units increasing/upgrading the Division's fire suppression capacity
- Filled 95 out-of-state fire resource assignments; 60 were in Texas and 35 were western federal assignments
- Implemented the Federal Excess Property Management Information System (FEPMIS) for those involved with the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program enabling our districts greater access to the acquisition, disposition, and inventory process
- Completed the Southern Region Hazard Mitigation Tennessee review
- Conducted Prescribed Burn training course for 25 forestry personnel in conjunction with the Incident Management Team Exercise
- Conducted Incident Management Team refresher course to 19 personnel
- Conducted multiple Firewise workshops throughout the state
- Conducted a Fire Readiness Review to determine the readiness state of Districts in preparation for fire season
- Initiated a strengthened effort to better address fire prevention methods with counties, local governments, and individual landowners.

Ongoing activities

- Continue Prescribed Burn training for forestry personnel
- Continue implementation of District/State Fire Prevention Plans
- Emphasize the danger of wildland fire to communities at risk by introducing them to the Tennessee Firewise Program via Forestry personnel contacts

Planned activities for 2007

- Conduct pumper operator training for Type VI engines
- Conduct dozer operator refresher training of Type IV tractor/plows
- Conduct Annual Fire Readiness Review
- Receive and put into service 39 new Type VI slip-on pumper units
- Implement Automated Fire Reporting system
- Complete 100% FEPP inventory and certify results

FOREST RESOURCE PROTECTION - FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION

Mission: Minimize forest resource losses caused by forest pests through effective prevention, detection, evaluation, suppression, and technical assistance measures.

The Division is endeavoring to meet the constant challenges in the Forest Health arena. The difficulty of managing forest pests has been made more complicated by the ever-increasing number of native and non-native forest pests. Coordination with other agencies and interest groups is becoming a critical part of the Division's response.

Major accomplishments for 2006

- Managed gypsy moth detection, delimiting, and eradication programs involving 15,138 traps in 93 counties and one ground spray project covering 1 acre in Cumberland County
- Kept the number of moths caught relatively low statewide at 71 moths in 50 areas - This is partially due to aggressive eradication projects in Campbell, Claiborne, and Cumberland Counties.
- Led the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) task force in training 52 personnel from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in HWA identification and management
- Created a survey worksheet for HWA for use by all state land management personnel to determine new HWA infestations on state parks, forests, wildlife management areas, and natural areas.
- Provided finances along with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in hiring additional personnel at the University of Tennessee's beneficial insects laboratory to increase production of biological control agents to reduce HWA populations on state lands
- Surveyed 15 counties for HWA, resulting in the discovery of 8 new infested counties, bringing the total to 22 counties
- Surveyed 20 nursery sites and 10 general high risk forest sites for sudden oak death (SOD) - A total of 346 samples were collected, all of which tested negative for SOD.
- Conducted six forest insect and disease training sessions for 150 division personnel from across the state
- Conducted southern pine beetle (SPB) trapping and predicted stable and low population levels in Rhea, Marion, and Wayne Counties - Predicted low but increasing SPB population levels for Chester County
- Surveyed for emerald ash borer (EAB) in 10 federal and state park campgrounds in Middle Tennessee - No EAB infestations found.
- Assisted in locating 4 survey sites for European woodwasp in Middle Tennessee for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Plant Protection and Quarantine - No woodwasp infestations found
- Conducted nine forest health protection programs for approximately 180 people

Ongoing activities

- Monitor for pests such as gypsy moth, hemlock woolly adelgid, southern pine beetle, sudden oak death, and other forest pests as time and manpower permit
- Train Division field employees on integrated pest management techniques and issues
- Monitor Forest Health program workload and make necessary adjustments
- Assist in the management of forest pests on state lands
- Administer federal grants for the management of forest pests
- Utilize GIS technology to develop maps and provide for other information needs

Planned activities for 2007

- Update the forest health website under the Division of Forestry and Tennessee Department of Agriculture websites
- Continue funding of personnel working at the University of Tennessee's beneficial insects laboratory to increase production of biological control agents for the hemlock woolly adelgid
- Plan and conduct the Cooperative Forest Health Review with the USDA Forest Service
- Assist in the development of a rapid forest health assessment protocol for use by field foresters in determining the health of examined non-industrial private forestlands
- Close out Southern Pine Beetle Initiative grant with USFS

FOREST RESOURCE PROTECTION - WATER QUALITY

Mission: Protect waters of Tennessee from degradation attributable to forest practices.

The Division of Forestry works to ensure that forest practices are carried out in a manner that does not harm the state's water resources. The Water Quality program involves prevention, education, training, monitoring, responding to complaints and assisting TDEC Water Pollution Control (WPC) with complaint resolution.

Major accomplishments for 2006

- Reprinted the popular *Guide to Forestry Best Management Practices in Tennessee*
- Made 571 logger contacts
- Performed pre-harvest planning on 39 logging sites
- Conducted 5 of the 5-day Master Logger classes with 80 attendees
- Conducted 17 Continuing Education classes with 391 attendees
- Investigated 78 water quality complaints
- Assisted WPC in issuing 7 Notices of Violation and 1 Director's Order
- Sent Water Quality forester to wetlands training

Ongoing activities

- Conduct Master Logger training and associated continuing education
- Provide best management practices (BMP) training for Division personnel
- Investigate water quality complaints associated with forestry practices
- Provide courtesy checks to assess BMPs for ongoing harvesting operations
- Contact loggers to address questions on BMP implementation and application

Planned activities for 2007

- Implement web based reporting system
- Conduct BMP implementation survey and publish report
- Develop portable bridge cost-share assistance program

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT

The mission of the Forest Resource Management Unit is to promote and advance sustainable forest management on non-industrial private forestlands for the multiple uses and benefits provided by forested landscapes. The Forest Resource Management Unit administers the Division's Landowner Assistance and Forest Legacy programs.

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - FOREST LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

Mission: Encourage and assist landowners to implement forest management practices that yield healthy, productive forests.

The landowner assistance program provides technical assistance, forest planning assistance, cost-share assistance, forest health assessments and a variety of forestry information to private, non-industrial forest landowners. We assist landowners in achieving resource conservation on their land and reaching forest management objectives.

Major Accomplishments for 2006

- Wrote 115 Forest Stewardship plans addressing 20,979 acres
- Certified 32 Forest Stewardship plans representing 6,469 acres
- Wrote 801 other forestry plans encompassing 56,462 acres
- Wrote 450 prescription plans covering 20,650 acres
- Planted 11,978 acres with trees
- Assisted 100 landowners in hardwood forest planting and establishment on 2,176 acres
- Provided 1,905 landowners with on-the-ground forest management technical assistance
- Assisted 9,878 other citizens with general forestry information and advice
- Updated computer program to report Division landowner assistance accomplishments
- Worked with the University of Tennessee Extension and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to promote and provide technical assistance for the Forest Stewardship Program including landowner workshops, newsletters, and forest demonstrations
- Partnered with the University of Tennessee Extension to provide artificial hardwood regeneration training for Division field personnel
- Delivered Wildland-Urban Interface learning sessions to all foresters and technicians
- Formed NRCS State Technical Forestry Sub-Committee
- Established Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods landowner workshop and field tour series

Ongoing activities

- Maintain and improve new landowner reporting system
- Offer continuing education opportunities for field personnel
- Administer federal and state grants and cost-share programs
- Coordinate multi-agency participation in Division forest resource management programs
- Develop materials and resources to assist in communicating with landowners

Planned activities for 2007

- Provide specific forest management technical training for field personnel
- Update TDF Forest Stewardship Handbook and templates for documents and plans
- Execute Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods landowner workshops at 3 State Forest and 2 urban/metro locations
- Provide large acreage landowners our services using new "compartment" protocols
- Implement use of *Rapid Forest Health Assessment* by foresters for new landowners
- Establish standard GIS mapping capabilities and train lead person in each District

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - FOREST LEGACY

Mission: Protect environmentally important, private forestlands threatened with conversion to non-forest uses.

The Forest Legacy Program identifies and protects environmentally important private forestlands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Program emphasis is to maintain well-managed, working forests on the landscape. Since initial involvement in 2000, fee simple and permanent conservation easement purchases now total 36,272 acres valued at \$37 million. In reaching that total, Tennessee utilized \$18.8 million of federal Legacy grant money due to the Division's lead on Forest Legacy opportunities and initiatives.

Major accomplishments for 2006

- Purchased 4 separate forestland tracts totaling 17,000 acres valued at \$11 million
- Submitted 6,100 additional acres worth 5.5 million for 2008 grant year consideration
- Added Forest Legacy Program section to the Division website

Ongoing activities

- Manage real estate transactions on all pending projects until closed
- Monitor Conservation Easements for deed compliance
- Promote, develop, grade and rank new project proposals
- Develop applicable GIS layers to help with updating program Assessment of Needs document
- Maintain the Legacy website

Planned activities for 2007

- Conduct site visit of Legacy tracts with permanent conservation easements
- Update the Tennessee Assessment of Needs using GIS layers
- Expand Legacy website
- Close on all funded tracts as soon as possible
- Partner with other agencies to develop high quality projects for 2009

URBAN FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT

The mission of the Urban Forest Resource Management Unit is to assist and encourage municipalities and private urban landowners to improve and maintain urban forest resources.

Urban forestry emphasizes the important role trees play in communities: from the many intangible benefits to the economic benefits of air pollution abatement, heat island mitigation, and storm water runoff reduction. To attain these benefits, the urban forestry program strives to provide assistance to Tennessee's cities and towns, where the majority of the population lives. Urban Forestry impacts people where they live.

Major accomplishments for 2006

- Completed the 2004 urban and community forestry grants
- Awarded ten local utilities Tree Line USA status
- Provided assistance in 4 projects to the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council
- Recognized 35 Communities across Tennessee as Tree City USA
- Initiated the 2006 grants program that awarded 21 grants totaling \$217,071
- Completed an Arbor Day Poster Contest for approximately 850 5th graders in 26 schools
- Completed an assessment of communities regarding their status in meeting the 4 program elements in accordance with the National Allocation Formula
- Continued oversight of 27 grants from the 2005 urban forestry grants program
- Completed a second panel of urban FIA plots
- Provided assistance to 62 Tennessee communities
- Provided assistance to 65 green industry entities that impact the urban forest
- Provided 31 teaching and training programs totaling 3,218 seat hours
- Hosted the State Arbor Day ceremony with Kingsport

Ongoing activities

- Continue providing assistance to Tennessee cities and towns
- Review cities' status in meeting the 4 elements of the National Allocation Formula
- Administer the Tree City USA & Tree Line USA programs
- Continue administration of Urban Forestry grants
- Coordinate Arbor Day Poster Contest & State Arbor Day Ceremony
- Provide assistance to the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council
- Update and maintain the State Champion Trees register
- Assist the pilot urban forest inventory & analysis project

Planned activities for 2007

- Update program strategic plan
- Complete a third panel of urban FIA plots
- Complete an analysis of canopy cover within the hex area containing an urban FIA plot
- Complete a program review by the USDA Forest Service

STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT

The mission of the State Forest Management Unit is to provide for the multiple use management of all resources on State Forest lands such that those resources are utilized in the combination that best meets the long-term needs of the people of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry administers 15 state forests totaling 164,032 acres based on multiple-use and sustainable forest principals. The forests are quite varied, ranging from mountain coves to cedar glades to bottomlands along the Mississippi river.

Major Accomplishments for 2006

- Completed acquisition plans to add 2,441 acres to the State Forest System (pending acquisitions include Pickett – 1,200; Bledsoe – 1,200; Cedars of Lebanon – 41)
- Completed timber harvest of approximately 7,718,387 million board feet of timber on 665 acres (representing 0.5% of regulated forest production acreage) that generated record revenues of \$1,904,989
- Filled vacant State Forest Forester positions
- Completed retracement of 25 miles of state forest boundary
- Completed fourth-year FSC assessment with no corrective actions or non-conformances; All 30 conditions of FSC certification have been met.
- Completed continuous forest inventory (CFI) system methods and procedures
- Completed the State Forest part of the State Land Acquisition Plan (Conservation Heritage Foundation) in conjunction with TWRA and TDEC.
- Completed 4 state forest compartment plans

Ongoing activities

- Assist with biological assessment of Franklin State Forest by TDEC.
- Facilitate landtype mapping of Chuck Swan State Forest by Dr. Glenn Smalley
- Continue compartment planning
- Develop High Conservation Value Forest attributes

Planned activities for 2007

- Complete installation and data collection of CFI plots for D5 and D6, possibly D4
- Meet revenue goal from timber sales
- Complete at least 8 compartment plans
- Hold 3 State Forest Field days (Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods)
- Complete planning for future Forest Certification involvement
- Complete 15 miles of boundary retracement

REFORESTATION UNIT

The mission of the Reforestation Unit is to provide quality, affordable seedlings (genetically improved where feasible) to Tennessee landowners and optimize genetic improvements to increase the productivity of the state's forest resource.

REFORESTATION - SEEDLING NURSERY

Mission: To provide high quality conifer and hardwood seedlings to the state's landowners at a competitive price.

The Division of Forestry's seedling nursery, located in Delano, TN, produces seedlings that are available for sale to landowners in Tennessee. These seedlings are adapted to growing conditions found in Tennessee and are used primarily for reforestation and conservation projects. Approximately half of the 75 acres available for seedling production at the nursery are used for this purpose each year. The remaining seedbed area is planted in cover crops each year to ensure the long-term productivity of the nursery soil.

Major Accomplishments for 2006

- Obtained approval to purchase property that will be the site of the new seedling distribution center and future seed orchards for west Tennessee
- Sold and distributed 5.7 million seedlings to landowners for planting during the 2006 winter planting season
- Produced 5.1 million seedlings during the 2006 summer growing season for distribution to landowners during the 2007 winter planting season
- Continued to refine techniques for weed control in hardwood seedbeds using existing and newly registered herbicides
- Achieved 91% customer satisfaction on Seedling Customer Satisfaction Survey
- Completed transfer of 170 acres of property at the Pinson Reforestation Complex to the Pinson Mounds State Park

Ongoing activities

- Develop and refine techniques for nursery cultural practices that will enhance seedling quality
- Improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the nursery program

Planned activities for 2007

- Complete purchase of new property that will serve as the site for the new seedling distribution center and future seed orchards for west Tennessee
- Develop and implement plans to increase seedling sales and corresponding sales revenue
- Develop new computer software better suited to handle accounting and seedling inventory control needs of the nursery

REFORESTATION - TREE IMPROVEMENT

Mission: To genetically improve the forest plantations of Tennessee through a program of breeding, testing, selection, and orchard management for important tree species; and to provide the state nursery with genetically improved seed from these orchards.

The Division's Tree Improvement Specialists manage over 220 acres of seed orchards and over 214 acres of progeny tests at various locations around the state. Currently, we are actively working with 7 hardwood and 4 conifer tree species. Tennessee is also a member of the North Carolina State University – Industry Cooperative Tree Improvement Program. Membership allows accelerated breeding and establishment of genetically superior seed orchards. Seed produced from these orchards is used to grow seedlings tailored for survival and fast growth on Tennessee's landscape.

Major Accomplishments for 2006

- Propagated 100% of assigned genetic selections and planted 100% of all trees available for seed orchards
- Finished conversion of 1987 white pine progeny tests for seed production use at Lone Mountain State Forest
- Collected pine cones from white pine orchards at Lone Mountain State Forest and the East Tennessee Nursery
- Processed cones collected from the orchards to obtain 114 pounds of improved white pine seed for future use in the seedling nursery
- Harvested 2,204 pounds of sawtooth oak acorns from seed production areas at the Pinson Reforestation Complex and the East Tennessee Nursery
- Collected 92 pounds of hybrid chestnut seed from orchard at the East Tennessee Nursery
- Obtained highest ever seed per pound yield from white pine orchard at Lone Mountain State Forest

Ongoing activities

- Continue tree breeding programs and genetic improvement of tree seed
- Continue establishment of the 3rd-cycle loblolly pine seed orchard located at the Pinson Reforestation Complex
- Analyze data from progeny tests and make selections for inclusion in the Tree Improvement Program
- Continue establishment of the 2nd-cycle white pine seed orchards at Lone Mountain State Forest
- Germinate and grow seedlings from seed sample collections for inclusion in seed production areas and progeny tests

Planned activities for 2007

- Measure white pine progeny tests at Bledsoe State Forest
- Install new grafted seed orchard at Scott State Forest
- Collect soil samples from orchards not sampled last year. Fertilize orchards according to soil test results.
- Harvest improved seed from producing orchards
- Remove the 1.0 generation loblolly pine seed orchards at the Pinson Reforestation Complex
- Thin the 1.5 generation loblolly pine orchards at the Pinson Reforestation Complex
- Install 2nd phase of the loblolly pine progeny test at the Pinson Reforestation Complex

FOREST DATA AND TECHNOLOGY UNIT

The mission of the Forest Data and Technology Unit is to facilitate the development and utilization of technology to meet the needs of our core businesses. The Forest Data and Technology Unit has the responsibility to implement state of the art technology, manage and compile data, and administer the Division's Forest Inventory and Analysis and Geographic Information Systems programs.

The Forest Data and Technology Unit is charged with the task of seeking out and implementing relevant technology. The Unit is also responsible for maintaining relevant databases and presenting data in a format for further analysis. Critical work areas include updating information systems and getting new mapping and remote sensing technology into the hands of field personnel. Adopting such technology will lead to better communications, increased efficiency, and strengthened credibility.

Major accomplishments in 2006

- Installed 6 DSL lines in facilities for improved internet service
- Partnered with other federal and state agencies for statewide digital aerial imagery coverage
- Developed fire reporting database - currently in test phase and on the intranet
- Implemented the use of Wisconsin's fGIS Mapping Program on Districts 4, 5 and 6
- Developed a centralized database utilized by all intranet databases

Ongoing activities

- Continue to upgrade all data collection and information systems
- Use fGIS for mapping, until something better can be found or developed
- Establish DSL connections at applicable field locations
- Continue training employees on GPS, GIS and mapping programs
- Continue to upgrade server space to handle new aerial photos from USDA

Planned activities for 2007

- Re-design internet based water quality data collection system
- Investigate feasibility of an automated burn permit system
- Facilitate development of nursery inventory program
- Build default report forms from the fire reporting database
- Facilitate development of Forest Stewardship plan writer and integrated GIS boundary locations
- Convert Landowner Assistant Program to intranet database
- Provide district's 1, 2 and 3 with data for use with Wisconsin's fGIS system

FOREST DATA AND TECHNOLOGY - FOREST INVENTORY ANALYSIS

Mission: Collect data used to characterize changes in Tennessee's forest resource.

The Division works with the USDA Forest Service to produce periodic reports of the condition of Tennessee's forest. Some 4,600 plots statewide must be accurately measured at regular intervals to provide the data needed, with 20% of the plots scheduled for each year. Information from this data is used to qualify and quantify Tennessee's forest resource.

Major accomplishments in 2006

- Measured 651 Phase 2 Forest Inventory plots
- Measured 55 Phase 3 Forest Health Monitoring plots
- Measured 54 Urban Forest Health Monitoring plots
- Measured 40 Ozone Monitoring Plots
- Trained 1 Forester for Certification
- Trained 7 Foresters for P3 data collection
- Trained 7 Foresters for Urban Forest Health Monitoring data collection
- Trained 7 Foresters for Ozone data collection

Ongoing activities

- Accomplish required training and certifications
- Collect data for FIA Phase 2, 3, Urban Forest Health Monitoring, and Ozone plots

Planned activities 2007

- Measure appropriate number of FIA Phase 2, 3, Urban Forest Health Monitoring and Ozone plots

FOREST DATA AND TECHNOLOGY – GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Mission: Analyze and present information in visual (map) form that assists in making resource decisions.

The Geographic Information Systems section provides output of collected data. Data from each of the core businesses is compiled and processed into visual formats.

Major accomplishments in 2006

- Produced Gypsy Moth trap location maps
- Produced Forest Legacy project maps
- Produced insect and disease occurrence maps (Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Sudden Oak Death)

Ongoing activities

- Collect tree improvement stand location data and enter into the GIS System
- Produce insect & disease occurrence maps
- Maintain nursery inventory program
- Maintain fire reporting system

Planned activities for 2007

- Secure and use color-IR aerial photos statewide of urban canopy cover
- Produce insect & disease occurrence maps

FOREST BUSINESS UNIT

The mission of the Forest Business Unit is to provide support for the Tennessee forest industry and forest-based businesses, and to provide data to characterize Tennessee forest products.

The goal of the Forest Businesses Unit is to improve Tennessee's forest resources by facilitating linkages between sellers and buyers and promoting value-adding industry. The Division's Forest Businesses program provides descriptive data about and for the forest products industry in Tennessee; technical assistance to forest products businesses or forest landowners; assistance in recruiting or establishment of forest products businesses in the state and analysis to aid understanding of the forest resource.

Major Accomplishments for 2006

- Completed Forest Products Directory and published online
- Attended WoodMac Shanghai Show in China to promote Tennessee hardwoods
- Supported Tennessee Forestry Association and TDF sponsored hardwood lumber exporting seminar
- Served as Chairman of the Southern Group of State Foresters Marketing and Utilization group to restructure goals

Ongoing activities

- Publish Forest Products Bulletin Quarterly
- Advise Tennessee citizens with their forest business questions and need for help
- Provide market research and work with forest businesses to market their products
- Work with Economic and Community Development and Agriculture marketing to help prospective businesses locate to Tennessee

Planned activities for 2007

- Promote experiences of marketing trip to China through the WoodMac and Interzum shows
- Develop residual and possible biofuel database and information for potential businesses

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC OUTREACH UNIT

The mission of the Environmental Affairs & Public Outreach Unit is to communicate clearly and accurately to our publics forestry information necessary to accomplish the Division's mission and optimize in-house communications. The Environmental Affairs & Public Outreach Unit also administers the Division's Information and Education program.

The Environmental Affairs and Public Outreach Unit seeks creative ways to provide outreach to the various publics in the State of Tennessee. One group that has received emphasis of late is the limited resource/underserved and minority landowner. This is being addressed through a partnership with the cooperative extension segment of the state's 1890 land grant institution, Tennessee State University, and U. S. Forest Service funding. Additionally, the unit seeks to foster greater collaboration with environmental advocacy groups to produce a climate for problem solving which will help to reduce unnecessary conflict in various arenas with favorable outcomes for all.

Major Accomplishments for 2006

- Held limited resource/underserved landowner 2-day workshops in Hardeman and Haywood Counties in West Tennessee
- Facilitated development of a landowner cooperative interest group as a follow-up to limited resource/underserved landowner workshops
- Completed Visual Quality guidelines booklet and presented/circulated at the TDF 2006 annual meeting
- Revived Robertson County Carbon Sequestration Demonstration Project
- Held focus group session for landowners representing Tennessee and Kentucky North Cumberland Plateau region as part of the Southern Group of State Foresters Southern Roundtable project
- Provided a booth at Tennessee Forestry Association Annual Meeting and Ag Day at the Tennessee Legislative Plaza
- Drafted Master Logger requirements under Rules of Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry as referenced in TCA Title 69, Chapter 3, Part 1

Ongoing activities

- Continue to plan an Estate Planning Workshop for Limited Resource – Underserved Landowners in West Tennessee
- Plant trees and develop a public education program for demonstrating Carbon Sequestration in Robertson County
- Facilitate a grant to University of Tennessee Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries to research Private Forest Management and Conservation on the North Cumberland Plateau

Planned activities for 2007

- Develop Visual Quality Demonstration Project
- Participate in the development of a regional Habitat Conservation Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC OUTREACH - INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Mission: To produce educational materials and provide forest resource information through a variety of media, and provide support to all Division programs in the dissemination of information to our publics.

The information and education program is essential in helping the general public understand forestry as a discipline and the role that the division plays in maintaining a healthy forest resource while providing a stream of essential ecological benefits to society. The program also helps to foster communication within the division, a critical function of a healthy organization.

Major Accomplishments for 2006

- Conducted 58th annual Forestry Camp
- Developed program materials for the forestry component of the annual Envirothon
- Filled Information and Education Program Specialist position
- Reconstituted internal newsletter
- Served on the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) Communications Committee

Ongoing activities

- Organize and facilitate Forestry Camp
- Assist with program materials for Envirothon
- Assist other Units with news releases, presentations, and outreach functions
- Continue to serve on the SGSF Communications Committee and as the committee's liaison to the organization's GIS Task Force and USDA Forest Service Research committee.

Planned activities for 2007

- Reorganize, update, and make additions to the Division's website
- Develop Division PowerPoint presentation showcasing core business
- Develop brochure describing proper silvicultural guidelines for bat and cave management
- Develop brochure on presenting shortleaf pine as a management option for landowners
- Assist in the preparation and deployment of a nursery seedling marketing campaign
- Assist in the development of a fire prevention advertisement campaign
- Produce regularly scheduled news releases pertaining to timely Unit objectives
- Develop online mailing listserv forum for Division personnel to enhance interdivision communication and expedite information flow
- Determine feasibility of developing external online newsletter highlighting Division news
- Assess Division Information and Education reporting measures and restructure as needed

Safety and Training Unit

The mission of the Safety and Training Unit is to maximize Division employee effectiveness by coordinating logistics and tracking of safety and training programs.

The Division stresses *safety first* in all program areas, providing the tools and techniques to help employees to work both effectively and safely. Employees are provided continuing education and training opportunities to provide them with the skills and knowledge to help them do their jobs better. In addition, new physical fitness standards will help the Division maintain a physically capable firefighting work force.

Major accomplishments for 2006

- Administered the work capacity test to assess fitness among Division firefighters
- Conducted the Division's basic wildfire training academy for new employees
- Participated in the fourth annual Kentucky/Tennessee Wildfire Academy, providing advanced training for Division firefighters
- Trained firefighters in the use of fire operations in the wildland-urban interface
- Assisted with the beta test of the new national Fire Prevention Education Course for firefighters
- Developed training guides for Forestry Aide I, II and Forestry Technician positions
- Facilitated Initial Pesticide Certification Training for foresters
- Assisted with Insect and Disease Training for employees
- Continued training on new dozers and transports for forest technicians and equipment operators
- Conducted citation (badge) training for employees
- Assisted with the "Speak Up on TV" training course for assistant district foresters
- Facilitated training courses in advanced hardwood silviculture for foresters
- Coordinated prescribed burning training for foresters and forest technicians
- Conducted training in fire prevention and the wildland-urban interface at the Division's Annual Meeting for foresters and technicians
- Made materials available for the Division's annual wildfire safety refresher

Ongoing activities

- Provide first aid, CPR, and defensive driving training to employees
- Maintain training database for all employees
- Provide access to pesticide certification records for foresters
- Maintain safety records (OSHA 300)
- Coordinate safety inspections of facilities with TOSHA
- Investigate accidents and unsafe work practices
- Coordinate safety/training committee's meetings and activities
- Provide safety information (updates, messages)

Planned activities for 2007

- Participate in the annual Kentucky/Tennessee Wildfire Academy
- Facilitate Insect and Disease Training for employees
- Coordinate prescribed burning training for foresters and forest technicians
- Train firefighters in the use of fire operations in the wildland-urban interface
- Test new firefighters on the work capacity test
- Conduct citation (badge) training for employees
- Facilitate advanced silviculture training for foresters

- Conduct annual basic wildfire training academy for new employees
- Develop training guides for Forester I, II, and III positions
- Reprint revised edition of the Safety and Health Manual
- Develop a Knowledge Assessment Test for foresters and forest technicians

ADMINISTRATION

The mission of the Administration Unit is to assist the State Forester in improving management effectiveness, the quality of customer services, the efficiency of operations, and the cost effectiveness of Division programs.

Spread across the State and administered from six district and one reforestation offices, the 333 employees of Agriculture's Forestry Division have responsibilities in nine separate programs. Effective planning, priority setting, and communication within the Division are crucial to organizational effectiveness. Assistant State Foresters and the Budget & Planning Unit Leader work with Staff to refine systems that improve customer services and operational efficiencies.

Major Accomplishments for 2006

- Trained administrative staff in budgeting & accounting systems
- Reinitiated annual meeting to express priorities to Foresters and Technicians
- Developed a Facilities Management Plan

Ongoing activities

- Improve work processes
- Manage budgets
- Improve performance measures and report quarterly
- Update Labor Distribution time accounting

Planned activities for 2007

- Improve electronic connectivity of Area offices
- Implement improved sharing of databases
- Write midterm update of the Division's Strategic Plan
- Implement Edison Program

The State of Tennessee policy of non-discrimination

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